

Ink Sings.

Well JOSIAH, things just don't seem to be coming your way up in Blair now, do they?

The Easter bonnet did little good for sore eyes in Bellefonte. It was nowhere in evidence.

Talk about the squalls of a colicky kid, they're not a circumstance to the way the snow squall on Easter.

That county jail in Clearfield seems to be more of a sieve than a place of safety, for prisoners are continually leaking out of it.

Like the bird, AGUINALDO has flown to the mountains. He has left no message behind, however, to indicate that he is weary of sin.

The first real sensible thing that the Cubans have ever done, they did on Tuesday when they decided to disband their army and dissolve the Assembly.

Monday, May 1st, 1899, is to be DEWEY day and all good people of the State are called upon to observe it in honor of the hero who sunk the Spanish fleet in Manila harbor.

They say that compressed air is to be the great motor power of the future. My, what an opportunity it will afford for campaign orators to make money between seasons on the stump.

Philipsburg papers complain of the number of croakers in that place. Why waste time on them. Leave them alone and they'll all hop back to more congenial atmosphere along with their playmates among the skunk cabbage and tall grasses on the banks of the Mosbannon.

The result of the ballot for Senator yesterday was QUAY 90, JENKS 71 and TUMBS 51. The Antis are changing their candidate every day now, with the hope of catching a few Democrats, but the Democrats bit in the House organization scheme and that was enough for them.

Beattie, Kansas, will be run by women for the next year. They had candidates of their own sex in the field for mayor, council and city clerk and elected everyone of them without a struggle; the result will be that the women will wear the pants in Beattie for awhile and it is to be expected that there will be rough sledding for the men.

With strong administration papers urging him to do it before it is too late it will not be surprising if President McKINLEY shifts his position on the meat question and falls in with Gen. MILES, who has the people with him, sure enough. The President will want the people with him in 1900 and it will not be long until he discovers that if he is to get them he will have to cut loose from ALGER and EAGAN.

The Delaware Democratic Assemblyman who voted for ADDICKS for United States Senator declines to be read out of his party or to resign his seat in the Legislature. He declares that he committed no crime against the State or his constituents and he can see no reason for resigning. It is quite likely that he can't. Any Democrat who could be so blinded to duty as to vote for ADDICKS would hardly be more keen to see a reason for resigning after having done so.

Since February 4th, 1899, up to yesterday the list of Americans killed in the Philippines reached 154, and the wounded 976, making a total of 1160 casualties that have been suffered in the attempt to catch AGUINALDO and he isn't caught yet. Nor will it avail us much if he does fall into OTIS' hands. The Filipinos are like the American Indians, as long as there is one of them left there will be uprisings on those islands. Before they will become pacified they will have to be exterminated and it remains to be seen whether President McKINLEY'S war away of there is to be one of humanity or for the extermination of what human beings there are there.

The best of evidence that the President's heart is not right is to be had in the fact that notwithstanding the warning sounded by such administration organs as the Washington Star, he still retains faith in ALGER and EAGAN. Gen. MILES has made a bold, noble stand against the powers that would snatch his knits from him only too quick, if they dared, and the result of the war investigating board has been to give more credit to his statements and less to those of the ALGERIANS. The people are with the General and while the President has, by no overt act, tried to shield the guilty, yet his failure to express a determination to lay the whole rotten business bare shows very plainly that he is afraid for his friend ALGER'S sake.

New York went almost beside itself over the VANDERBILT-FAIR wedding, the papers devoted columns to describing the union of millions and gawking people jammed the street about the OELERICH'S home, where the ceremony was performed, with the hope of seeing the bride and groom. It is all over now and the young people will scarcely be heard of again until an heir is presented to the millions that are bet on them at their wedding. Then the whole thing will have to be rehearsed. The golden veneer is what catches the people now-a-days. While these wealthy youngsters were being married in New York, with all the lavish splendor unlimited means could secure, who knows but that a coming President was being married in some back woods place in the simplest kind of fashion.

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Senator Quay's Trial.

The trial of ex-Senator M. S. QUAY on the charge of "conspiracy to commit larceny," will begin in the criminal court of Philadelphia, on Monday next, unless some unforeseen circumstance interposes to prevent it, which is, to say the least, improbable. This "celebrated case" has already been postponed three times, twice at the instance of Senator QUAY, and once on the motion of the Commonwealth, under conditions which reflected somewhat on the defense. There are reasons, moreover, to believe that the defendant approaches the ordeal of trial even now most reluctantly, and that if it were possible to secure another delay, it would be done. But public patience has already been overtaxed in the matter, and the chances are that the case will be called at the time fixed and disposed of finally.

The misdemeanor charged on the rather confusing indictment of "conspiracy to commit larceny," is the misuse of the funds of the State. It is alleged that money belonging to the State was deposited in certain banks and used in the shape of "collateral" to secure loans to Mr. QUAY and members of his family. The borrowing from banks in possession of the state funds is not denied, so far as we are able to ascertain the facts, but it is alleged that it was not the money of the State that was used in the transactions. That is to say it is held that when the money was placed in possession of the bank it became the money of the bank and the officers of the bank had a right to do with it what they liked. The principle upon which this contention is based is that money deposited in a bank, loses its identity the moment it comes into possession of the bank, and that the only obligation, moral or material, on the bank is that funds to the amount of the deposit will be paid on demand. That is true, as a rule. But in the case in question the conditions were different. That is to say it is a matter of record that the State Treasurer made the deposit with a specific understanding in writing that it would not be disturbed or drawn against under any circumstances, until after RICHARD QUAY had repaid an obligation which he was then negotiating, of one-sixth the amount of the deposit. In other words the State Treasurer, presumably at the instance of Mr. QUAY, had agreed in writing to keep state funds to the amount of \$600,000 in possession of the bank until RICHARD QUAY would repay a loan of \$100,000, which he had not yet secured. This was clearly using the funds of the State for the benefit of an individual, which is a crime under the law.

Of course there is a well-defined principle of law that a man, though accused of crime, is innocent until proven guilty. But conditions sometimes justify the presumption of guilt. If this had been the first time that Mr. QUAY had been accused of improperly using the funds of the State for his individual advantage, there would be reason in the demand for a charitable interpretation of the circumstances. But as a matter of fact he is alleged to have indulged himself in the luxury of using the State Treasury for his own convenience before, and the only defense made against the charge is that the State never lost any money on account of it. But the law was violated just the same, and morally speaking the crime was as great as if every dollar of the amount had been lost. The fact that others have committed the same offense and enjoyed immunity from punishment affords no more substantial excuse. If others have used the State funds unlawfully, and probably they have, they too ought to have been prosecuted and punished. That they were more fortunate is to be regretted, for their immunity may have promoted the crime in others. But in any event it is time to put a stop to the evil and there is no apparent reason why the operation may not be inaugurated now as well as at another time.

If Senator QUAY is innocent, no man wants him convicted and he has no friend in the Commonwealth who would welcome his vindication more cordially than the WATCHMAN. But in the face of all his legal rights, which include the presumption of the law in his favor and the burden of proof on the prosecution, the appearances are against him and it is just and equitable that he should be brought to trial and, if guilty, to punishment.

Before Tuesday every Republican paper of any eminence in the country published dispatches from Chicago, stating that the mayoralty contest in that city would be made a purely local issue. But now that HARRISON has been elected and ALTGELD defeated these same papers are trying to make their readers believe that the result is a direct slap at Mr. BRYAN.

The much predicted breaking up that was to occur in the senatorial contest at Harrisburg this week, hasn't materialized and though Pennsylvania hasn't been given a Senator the world still moves.

Mr. Kulp's Testimony.

The bribery investigation at Harrisburg continues to develop some surprising incidents and is not without a humorous aspect, if we can so far forget the shame and humiliation it involves as to notice the humorous features. It has already been shown by the evidence that the standing committees of the House of Representatives have been made up by a lobby agent of one of the candidates for United States Senator and that every desirable position on them has been corruptly offered in trade for votes for QUAY. It has been proved that the offices in the gift of the Governor of the State have been doled out like cabbages in a huckster's shop in the same interest, though the constitution and law of the State is violated by every such act. Other exposures, equally humiliating, have been made and the end is not yet. But now and then an incident crops out that provokes a smile even under such grave circumstances.

For example there was something strikingly amusing in the testimony of MONROE H. KULP, late a member of Congress for the Northumberland county district. It will be remembered that last week Representative BROWN, of Union county, testified that Mr. KULP had offered him \$200 or \$300 if he would absent himself from the balloting on a certain day. In answer to this aspersions Mr. KULP took the witness stand on Tuesday last. He admitted that he had asked Mr. BROWN to vote for QUAY and that he had done practically everything else that Mr. BROWN had accused him of, including the matter of money referred to. But he protested that he didn't mean to bribe Mr. BROWN with the \$200 or \$300. Far from it. What he did want to do was to give Mr. BROWN a chance to make that much money by buying for him a couple of work horses, the value of which would probably be \$90 or \$100 a piece. The amount proposed would be a generous commission on such a business transaction, but then it would incidentally take Mr. BROWN out of Harrisburg and remove him from voting range of the joint session of General Assembly on an occasion which Mr. KULP correctly estimated to be vital to the senatorial question.

Of course Mr. KULP never once thought of that. Gentlemen who pay such liberal commissions on business transactions of so small a character, rarely think deeply or reason closely, but the incident recalls an event which some years ago developed into a matter of national importance. In a celebrated political contest less than a quarter of a century ago, the chairman of the national committee of one of the parties sent an agent to investigate the condition in Indiana, the pivotal State in the contest. While there a telegraphic cypher was used for communications between the agent and principal and one day the country was electrified by the publication of an intercepted dispatch from one to the other which read: "Buy seventy-five mules." To this day nobody knows just what was meant by the message, though Congress took the matter up and spent months of time and thousands of dollars in an effort to solve the problem.

Probably Mr. KULP, during his recent congressional service has, while searching through the archives of the House, come into possession of the records of that inquiry and worried over it until it has warped his mind, and that when he gives himself over to the luxury of manufacturing senatorial sentiment, in his purely harmless way, he unconsciously falls into the frame of mind which evolved the mule dispatch of long ago except that he substitutes horses for mules. Anyway there was something curious, not to say coincidental, in the matter but we hope that in the future Mr. KULP will get all the horses he wants at a more moderate cost in the matter of commissions.

One-Fourth of All County Taxes Expended for Handling Them.

When the tax-payers of the county come to understand that there must be a change in the management of the county affairs or an increase of taxation, they will possibly appreciate the necessity of securing as candidates for commissioners, men who are thorough in business and who will do their best to reduce county expenditures. When they are told that the assessment, collection, care and distribution of the county moneys, alone, costs one-fourth of the total paid in, they will appreciate the necessity of an immediate change.

The present board of commissioners may be honest in their intentions and are possibly doing the very best they can to serve the people, but they do not seem to comprehend the situation or to understand that a \$63,000 expenditure cannot be made out of a tax levy of \$50,000. They attend close enough to business, in fact they attend so close to it that there are days when ten cents worth of work costs the county \$10.50. They come here regularly at nine o'clock Monday mornings, they leave between three and four in the afternoon of the same day; they do this every day in

the week during the entire year, whether there is business to transact or whether there is not and the tax-payers are compelled to put up \$10.50 for each day they are present. The work they do could be easily and satisfactorily done in two days of every week, but this would not bring them the salary they draw, and salary seems to be the principal thing they are after. Any other business in the county that would cost one-fourth of the gross income for simply collecting in and paying out, would go to the Styx in a very few months, yet the county business is costing the tax-payers this amount under the present management.

Table showing financial figures: Total amount of county tax \$40,615.51, Dog tax 2,370.50, Making total of \$43,186.01, Paid to assessors \$2,074.47, Paid for collection 1,205.58, Treasurer's salary 2,000.00, Commissioners' salaries 2,850.07, Commissioner's clerk 800.00, Assess books and duplicates 369.05, Making a total of \$10,489.17.

The above figures are from the commissioners' statement, with the exception of the percentage allowed for the collection of taxes, which is placed at three per cent.—a very low estimate. They do not include insurance, light, heat, wear and tear of public office and public furniture, nor extra clerical hire nor are exonerations taken into consideration. These, if added to the total, would increase the amount of the expenditures at least a couple of thousand dollars, thus making the total costs of collecting and distributing county moneys amount to OVER one-fourth of the entire sum handled.

We leave it to the tax-payers to consider whether a management that is as expensive as this, is the kind that is best suited to their interests and the welfare of the county. It is not only in the commissioners' office that these extravagant methods prevail, but in all the transactions that fall to the lot of the commissioners to oversee. Men who will not try to save the county in the matter of salaries, will make but little effort to do so in other things, and as long as the taxpayers elect, as commissioners, men whose only business is to make a salary out of the county, they may expect to have the same kind of extravagance, if not careless management, in county affairs.

The Matter of New Courts.

The time-serving politicians of both parties in the two great cities of the Commonwealth are hammering at the doors of the Legislature, asking for additional courts. Philadelphia wants a fifth and Pittsburgh a fourth court and the Republican and Democratic "ward-workers" of both cities say to the leaders of both parties in both Houses that the people and especially the poor people are safe neither in life nor property because of the lack of facilities to administer justice. Men who can hardly know from their own personal experience whether one or a dozen courts are needed in either city are actually neglecting their business, if they have any, by remaining in Harrisburg constantly impugning the Legislature for additional courts.

It is easy to understand why the Republican politicians of these two cities are anxious for the creation of new courts. With them and that is the "chief end of man" according to the catechism which they practice. But the Democratic politicians haven't the same excuse or as good or had a one. The managers of the Democratic party in Philadelphia, if they are honest and faithful, can derive no benefit for themselves or their party by putting in the hands of DAVE MARTIN or DAVE LANE this additional lot of party patronage. Yet they are constantly working for the result, little if any less important than the Republican managers themselves. What does it all mean? There must be "a nigger" in the woodpile."

If there was even the suspicion of a need for the additional courts asked for the questionable aspect of the matter from a party view point might be overlooked. But as a matter of fact there isn't. In Philadelphia, according to the evidence of the judges now in commission, there is not enough work to keep the courts now in existence employed, and only on Tuesday last, Judge BIDDLE was obliged to adjourn his court for two days because there was nothing for it to do. Judge BRIGY is on record with the same complaint, and if the Legislature creates new courts in the face of such facts it will be a crime against the people.

President McKinley has appointed the following commissioners to the Czar's peace Congress: ANDREW J. WHITE, the ambassador to Germany; captain WILLIAM CROZIER, representing the army; captain MAHON, representing the navy; minister NEWELL, SETH LOW and FREDERICK HOLLS, of New York, as secretary. A peace conference, indeed, why in the world don't they stop the killing in the Philippines before they talk peace.

Written for the Watchman.

BACK TO THE OLD HOME.

I came back, last week, from the far off West, Back to my boyhood's home, To the dear old valleys and hills and streams That I loved ere I learned to roam. Unchanged, the mountains look sternly down, Unchanged, the waters flow Laughingly over their stony beds, Just as in the long ago.

But here in the town were I used to play, With many a laughing mate, The hand of time has not lightly lain And the changes are many and great. Here, where stood the old covered bridge, With its long arch, cool and dim, An iron structure now spans the stream, Practical, neat and trim.

Further up the creek stood the old saw mill, Beyond it the log pools lay, Where, like water rats, we paddled and swam, Risking our lives each day. To-day I went down to the old canal, Where the long rafts used to float, And the patient, plodding, weary mules Drew their heavy loaded boat.

The foundry black, and the old boatyard Are falling to decay And the busy ones who labored there, Where are they all to-day? Then I went up to the old school house, The brown school house on the hill, 'Twas vacation time, and the empty rooms Were strangely dim and still.

And sitting down at the master's desk, In the silence and the gloom, Soon the busy forms of long ago Filled into the empty room. John, with his warm tinged olive skin, Rose, blue-eyed and fair, George, so studious and grave, Ida, with her golden hair.

They took their seats at the old time desks, I missed not a single face, 'Till the janitor opened the window blinds And they faded away into space. 'Twas but an illusion, a waking dream, But I wished that it might be so And the boys and girls could come back again From out of the long ago.

But the boys have grown to sturdy men, And the girls to matrons staid, And some, whose earthly work is done, In quiet graves are laid. So I travel about the dear old town, And I look for their faces in vain, With a sense of loss and of being lost That is harder to bear than pain.

Where is Aguinaldo?

From the New York Sun. Despatches from Manila to The Sun say that the country from Calocan up to Malolos, through a distance of perhaps twenty miles, is dotted with white flags displayed by Filipinos who took flight as our army advanced, but have now returned to their homes. That Aguinaldo's army is depleted by desertions to our side, may be expected by those who are familiar with the character of the men who follow him. It is not only in the commissioners' office that these extravagant methods prevail, but in all the transactions that fall to the lot of the commissioners to oversee. Men who will not try to save the county in the matter of salaries, will make but little effort to do so in other things, and as long as the taxpayers elect, as commissioners, men whose only business is to make a salary out of the county, they may expect to have the same kind of extravagance, if not careless management, in county affairs.

Our Paris despatches represent Agoncillo as saying that the Filipinos moved their capital from Malolos to San Fernando, under a plan of enticing us from our base in order to fall on us in the interior. San Fernando is, in fact, several miles inland from Bacolor, which is a railroad point about as far beyond Calumpit as the latter is beyond Malolos. Since a recent reconnaissance showed no enemy two miles south of Calumpit, there is nothing unlikely in the news of the long move backward to San Fernando. It has been suggested, however, that the skirmish of Hall's brigade with the enemy near Marikina, nine miles east of Manila, might indicate that Aguinaldo, in abandoning Malolos, had made a detour inland in the region of San Jose or even further south at Novaliches, so as to reinforce the part of his command left in Lawton's front. This move would suggest trying to force MacArthur's retreat from Malolos by threatening his flank and his line of supply.

We see no ground, however, for this view, which in any case, would have supposed a march by Aguinaldo's troops of perhaps thirty miles or more from Malolos. Besides, our despatches say that a recent cavalry reconnaissance under Major Rucker disclosed about a thousand insurgents intruded about Quingan, about five miles northeast of Malolos, with the main body apparently between Quingan and Pailan. Quingan is about five miles northeast of Malolos and seven or eight miles southeast of Calumpit, and Pailan about a couple of miles north of Quingan. It therefore seems likely that the insurgent leader still holds his main force well north of Malolos, and a little inland from the railroad which he has found such difficulty in defending. Hall's brigade, in the Mateo Valley, keeps a good watch on MacArthur's right flank, and occasionally develops the presence of the enemy.

Aguinaldo, in short, is still on the defensive, probably hoping that the rainy season will make it difficult to follow him, and yet ready, if pushed, to abandon the railroad and take to the hills. Meanwhile his army is ready to dwindle when the people under their white flags send word to their friends that there is nothing to fear from the rule of the Americans.

We Could All Furnish a Little of the Motive Power Them.

From the Daylestown Democrat. A new form of propulsion has been under investigation, by scientific and mechanical experts, for a considerable time, which promises great results. This is a compressed air motor for the running of trolley and other cars. The first application of compressed air, for this purpose, was made in Europe, and cars are operated by it in both France and Switzerland. There it has met with complete success. About the middle of April an experiment will be tried at New York, when twelve compressed air motor cars will be operated by the Metropolitan street railway company, and, if it be successful, it is the intention to operate the entire system with such motors. It is only a question of time, when compressed air will be used everywhere in place of electricity, which will largely reduce expenses and with greater safety.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Wilson Gray is having 1,000 peach trees planted on his farm near Ickesburg, Perry county, this spring.

The frame work of the New Bloomfield academy is in place and the structure will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

On the railroad, near Greensburg, James Dristell and John Clark were killed by a train and John McAllister was fatally injured.

After being ejected from a ball room at Shamokin, Barney Adams fired three shots at officers Zerbe and Jackman and made his escape.

The council of Jersey Shore has decided to build a town hall. A building committee has been instructed to receive bids for the same.

The breaker at the Mahanoy colliery, operated by the P. & R. C. & I. Co., will be razed to the ground and a mammoth modern structure will be erected in its stead.

Warden Deitrick, of the Northumberland county jail, at Sunbury, found a wooden key to unlock the main corridor door, made by James Shaney, who is serving a seven year sentence.

In the John Beck oratorical contest, at the Moravian college, Bethlehem, honors were carried off by Eugene A. Heim, of Lancaster, and Joshua C. Moore, of Demerara, South America.

While some boys were attempting to wrest a rifle from the hands of John Wertz, in North Reading, the weapon went off, and John Rheinwalt was so seriously wounded in the leg that he may die.

Sixty school teachers in Scranton's schools, who have been in service for over twelve years, have petitioned the board of education for a general increase of \$10 a month in their wages.

John Trostle, aged about 13 years, and son of George Trostle, of Blain, Perry county, tried to ride a cow around the barn yard recently. The animal threw him off, breaking a bone in his arm near the wrist.

The upsetting of a coal oil lamp Wednesday set fire to a dwelling house and Mrs. Simon Rapp, of Harrisburg, was so badly burned that she cannot recover. Her grandson, Russell, aged 16 months, was burned to death.

While S. Learn was working in the woods at Stony Fork, Tioga county, Saturday, a log jumped from the slide and struck the man. His leg was fractured and an artery broken. He was taken to the Williamsport hospital, where he died.

The Altoona authorities are to be congratulated on the passage of an ordinance prohibiting prize fighting, boxing matches and sparring exhibitions in that city. Every city and borough in the state should do likewise. The practice is brutal to the core, and as injurious to society as the Spanish bull fight.

Edward Viard and James Morris, awaiting trial for larceny, in the Clearfield jail made their escape from the jail Wednesday by digging through the wall with a pick and lowering themselves to the ground by means of a rope made from one of their blankets. They were not missed until Thursday, and had several hours' start when the sheriff's posse began a search for them.

Millard A. Smith, driver of the delivery wagon of the Enterprise bakery at Altoona, has small pox. He contracted the disease while nursing his brother near Hollidaysburg some weeks ago, but it did not develop in him until recently. Friday his physician pronounced it small pox in a mild form. Smith with his wife and five children, live at Fairview, a suburb of Altoona.

Monday afternoon the engine on an east bound Beech Creek freight train jumped the track and ran on the ties to within a few feet of a bridge, near Winburne. Fearing that the locomotive would plunge off the bridge, engineer W. M. Boyd jumped from the locomotive. His left leg was severely injured, and his foot was crushed. He was taken to his home at Jersey Shore. The engine was afterwards replaced on the tracks.

District inspector W. H. Glenn has received a report to the effect that there are three cases of small pox in Logan township Blair county, one-fourth of a mile north of Eldorado. The names of the victims are Mrs. Elizabeth Yon, Grant Yon and Howard Yon. The lady is aged 65 and the men 26 and 24 years, respectively. Mr. Glenn, who is district inspector appointed by the state board of health, is also health officer of Altoona.

A cow belonging to John Critchfield, of Fossilville, Bedford county, was bitten by a mad dog some time ago and went mad on Sunday, just forty days after she had been bitten. The cow was killed by the owner on Monday. The dog also bit Emanuel Lybarger's dog the same day that the cow was bitten and a few days afterward Mr. Lybarger's dog bit one of his children, making a slight red mark on the child's hand. The dog went mad afterward and had to be killed. The child has suffered no ill effects from the injury.

About 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning two bold burglars deliberately walked into the house of Rev. Father J. C. Farran at Johnstown, with revolvers in their hands, and meeting the reverend gentleman in the hall demanded that he surrender a quantity of money they knew him to have. Father Farran took in the situation very quickly and under earnest protest conducted the robbers to his bed room where he delivered to them \$400, partly his own money and partly that of his church. After receiving the money under penalty of death the robbers cautioned Father Farran not to give any alarm till morning, then they fled.

Kinley Packer, of Monestown, rose about 3:30 o'clock Saturday morning to awaken several ratsmen who were at his house and who were desirous of leaving early. Shortly after he went to the barn and was much surprised to see one of his horses bridled and all ready to be taken out. The animal the night before had been divested of all the harness and had been bedded for the night by Mr. Packer himself. It is very evident that had Mr. Packer not gone to the barn so early in the morning, he would have been robbed of his horse. A few years ago, when Mr. Packer resided up Marsh creek, one of his horses, harness and buggy were stolen from his barn at night. After considerable search and trouble he found them down the country several days after.